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American Journal of Philately.

A Monthly Journal devoted to the interests of Stamp Collectors.

Published by The Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Limited, 18 E. 23d St., New York.
JOHN N. LUFF and GEORGE L. TOPPAN, Editors.

Subscription for the U. S. and Canada, 50c.] MAR. 15, 1904. [Single Copies, 5cts
Foreign Countries, 75c.]

Panama
and its
Bar Sinister.

PANAMA has occupied the center of the philatelic stage for several months now and the multitude of surcharges which have emanated therefrom has been enough to drive both the collector and the cataloguer to distraction

In the columns of *The Weekly Philatelic Era* for Feb. 27th is an article from which we quote the following: "The reliable firm of Stanley Gibbons Co. announces that a representative of this firm who applied at a Panama post office for a large quantity of the provisionals was given unsurcharged stamps by the sheet, furnished with the rubber stamp and allowed, at a neighboring hotel, to apply the surcharge in any form and with any ink that he pleased."

We have known of this transaction for several weeks but, as it was told to us in confidence and we were given to understand that none of these stamps which were in anyway irregular, either as to abnormal varieties of surcharge or colors of ink, would be placed upon the market, we have not felt at liberty to publish the fact until now. It is, of course, needless for us to say that Stanley Gibbons' upright methods and reputation for business probity are too well known for anyone to even suspect them of taking advantage of such an occurrence and foisting rubbish of this character upon the collecting public. On the other hand collectors should consider themselves fortunate that this firm, and not some less conscientious dealer, came into possession of this lot.

We cannot find words strong enough to adequately express our condemnation of the laxity of postal officials of this, or any other, country for allowing such conditions to exist.

To go still further back; when we placed our order for the first lot of these stamps, which we did through a prominent resident of Panama who was then in this country, he informed us that he could get us anything that we wanted in that line, even to the rubber stamp (or one of them) with which the surcharging was done. We replied to the effect that all we cared for was the stamps that were regularly issued and on sale at the post office. This lot we duly received and, as there were practically no varieties in it aside from the color of the surcharge being rose upon some values and blue upon others, we believe them to have been all right. However, later developments having made us suspicious, we have since refrained from purchasing any further supply of these "hand-stamped Panamas".

We can, of course, readily understand that some confusion must have necessarily resulted from the sudden and urgent calls for stamps while the

postal department was practically without organization or supplies of any kind other than the unsurcharged stamps of the Republic of Columbia ; we are even forced to admit that we have not the slightest doubt that anything in the nature of one of the old stamps would have passed the post office and franked a letter so long as it bore the magic word "*Panama*" surcharged upon it.

The fact remains, however, that the conduct of the officials in this matter is utterly indefensible, and no excuse that is at all adequate can be offered for the culpability and carelessness, not to mention any harsher names, which has been exhibited in this matter.

Truly, the fair escutcheon of the new Republic has earned a bar sinister. in philatelic circles at least, which will take a deal of polishing before it will disappear.

In conclusion we will state that we are informed that the first hand stamped surcharge has already been extensively counterfeited in New York and that, as the genuine are poorly executed, it is next to impossible to detect the fraud.— G. L. T.



The Postage and Postage Due Stamps of Holland and Dutch Indies.

By E. W. WETHERELL.

INTRODUCTION.

To the philatelist—as distinct from the gatherer of any doubtful production of financially embarrassed states—such a country as Holland, with its absolute honesty (philatelically speaking), is a pleasant contrast to those countries and colonies, which, yearly or monthly, issue long sets of stamps to commemorate the tenth anniversary of something which no one has ever heard about before or wants to hear of again, or which are so obliging (!!) as to surcharge their 10 centimes stamps with a “15” and their 15 centimes stamp with a “10” for *purely postal requirements*.

During the fifty two years that the benefits of prepaid postage have been enjoyed by the Netherlands, not one single stamp has ever been issued in that country which was not really necessary; no change has ever been made for “change’s sake”; no absurdly high values have ever appeared; and, more wonderful still! not a single surcharge has ever been applied for the mother country. No plates have been sold from which millions of worthless trash could be thrown on the market, and reprints have not been made for sale. The Dutchman does not increase his revenue at the expense of stamp collectors, and scorns to celebrate, on postage stamps, the numerous events in his history of which he may well be proud. The relief of Leyden, the crowning of William the Silent and the final defeats of the Spaniards are too dear to be put to such base uses.

There is but one tiny blot on Holland’s philatelic escutcheon, to wit: the issue of certain stamps in an imperforate condition to Mr. Moens, to oblige one of his clients. But, as these stamps were never intended for postal use and probably never were so used, the blot is small, and these stamps being very rare, may be comfortably ignored by all but the most ardent specialist.

Other points which make Holland a good country for the specialist are: A good collection may be obtained without too severe a strain on the pocket; the stamps are of very great interest, and few countries will so well repay close observation and study.

A few years ago comparatively little was known about Dutch stamps; even such a late list as the 1897 edition of Messrs Stanley Gibbons’ catalogue jumbled together all the perforations of the 1872 issue under the heading of “12—14” and mentioned, in a casual manner only, that there happened to be two types of the 1867 issue. The latest edition of both Gibbons’ and Bright’s catalogues are much more complete, but still leave much to be desired. They go into a great deal more detail than is required by the ordinary collector and are not full enough to be of use to the specialist. During the last few years, Messrs. Moens, Gordon Smith and Stewart Wilson have thrown much light on many of the knotty points which have long been a puzzle to collectors, but, unfortunately, there yet remains a great deal of uncertainty about several points; and, as the Dutch postal authorities profess ignorance when approached on such subjects as the perforation machine and the types, their doubtful points will probably never be satisfactorily cleared up.

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Before commencing a description of the stamps themselves, a somewhat long and, I fear, tedious preliminary note is necessary on the subject of the perforating machines, as it is impossible to follow the variations of the stamps themselves without first obtaining a clear idea of the machines used to perforate them at various times. Perforations are frequently an unmitigated nuisance, but in this case, although very difficult in some respects, a study of them is necessary.

In the first place, I would like to emphatically state that the minutiae of perforations are of more importance in the case of Holland (together with Luxemburg) than in that of any other European country, for the following reasons: (1) Variations of perforations denote distinct periods. I am fully aware that I am laying myself open to severe criticism by making such a statement, for it is usually supposed that the 13—14, small holes, the 13½, clean cut, and the 12½x12 machines were all in use, more or less, simultaneously, as far as the 1872 issue is concerned. By examination of many thousands of dated copies, I find that certain perforations are very common in certain months of certain years and may be preceded and followed by another perforation. So regular is this fact that there appears to be no doubt that, at certain times, a particular machine was in regular use and that, when it was withdrawn for the insertion of fresh punches, one of the other machines was employed for a little while. (2) Certain perforations are frequently met with in conjunction with certain shades only.

This is, therefore, a very different case to that of the late issues of Austria and New South Wales, when several machines were in use at one time and different perforations did not denote distinct periods in the history of the stamps. I do not mean that the many absurd little differences of perforation, such as, 12½x11¾, 12¼x12, 13x12 and 12x12 are of the slightest interest to collect,—anyone who has studied the machines would know that they were the veriest trivialities from one and the same machine.

I may here mention that a collector who wishes to study Dutch stamps can only do so, with any prospect of success, by examining many thousands of the common varieties. A description of my own plan and rules when forming my collection, may be of help to those who are thinking of taking up this country:

First. After collecting all the available literature on the subject, compile a list of the stamps on the following plan (for the standard catalogues are sorry productions as far as Holland is concerned): Divide your list into four columns. In the first column insert a list of the stamps, without any reference to shade type, paper, gum, etc. This will give a complete list of the stamps intended to be different by the government when issuing them. Each of the stamps in this list should be numbered and may be called *prime varieties*. In the second column major varieties should be inserted opposite the type varieties in the first columns,—thus, the second type of the 1867 issue, the four types of the Unpaid and the main divisions of perforations, as given in the catalogues, 13—14, small hole; 13½, clean cut; 12½x12 (with variation 11½x12) and 12½x12½. These would be numbered with the type number and a letter in addition. In the third column should be inserted the shades, papers, gum and sub divisions of the 13—14 small hole perforations, and, in the fourth column, a list of minor varieties such as flaws, double perforations, etc. Having compiled the list, the collector can then decide to what extent he would like to specialize—whether he will include Column III or even Column IV, or stop at II.

The next thing is to obtain a large, blank, collecting book and devote one or more pages to each stamp which is numbered in column I and leave one

or two lines of the page for each stamp mentioned in columns II and III. I may make my meaning clearer if I give you an example: The 5c of the 1872 issue will have a specific number in column I and will be mounted on certain pages of the collecting book. The third line will be reserved for 13—14 small perfs., the next line for 13½, the rest of the page for 12½x12 and its variation 11½x12, the next page for 12½x12½ and the variations of paper and gum, flaws and other minor varieties. The stamps in each line will, therefore, be alike in all particulars, except, perhaps, in shade.

(2). Mount everything in the collecting book, as even a poor copy will be of use at this stage

(3). Do not commence by buying single, common stamps, but purchase a wholesale lot of them and sort by perforations only at first.

(4). When two thousand or so have been collected, go through dealers' books and approval sheets and fill up blank spaces.

(5). On no account commence mounting *permanently* until a representative lot has been obtained, with every stamp in column I represented by a dozen or so copies, varying according to columns II and III.

(6). Remember that each issue requires special treatment.

(7). Never imagine that your collection is even approximately complete, for it never will be. I have over three thousand specimens in my collection and am very, very far from completion.

(8). Mount only fine copies in the final collection and keep used and unused separate.

PERFORATING MACHINES.

In the following notes will be found all that is at present known on the subject, but, unfortunately, several points still require elucidation.

The first issue, 1852, was never perforated.

The second issue, 1864-65, was uniformly perforated 12½x12. The first machine with which we have to concern ourselves is, therefore, a 12½x12 machine, coming into use in 1864. Curiously enough, this is the exact gauge of a machine which was used as late as 1886 for the later printings of the 1872 issue, before being superseded by the 12½x12½ machine, which has been in use for the last twelve years. It would seem to be very unlikely that the same machine would have been in use for a quarter of a century, even allowing for the long breaks during which the small hole machine and the 13½ machine were in use. But there are certain facts which appear in the stamps issued after 1867, that prove either that new machines with exactly the same gauge were employed or that very difficult alterations of the original machine were made. I must confess that the greatest difficulty to me in connection with Dutch stamps has been to account for the 12½x12 gauge with its variations, and no help can be obtained from the Dutch Post Office Department on this matter. The following remarks must, therefore, be taken as controversial and argumentative rather than final and authoritative.

The 1864 stamps were larger than those of 1867, consequently the same machine could not have been employed to perforate them; the 1867 12½x12 machine must, therefore, be a new machine.

The 1872 issue is larger than the 1867, but not of quite the same shape as the 1864 issue. Here, again, neither of the old machines could be used without alterations and, as no one has ever imagined that any form of 12½x12 perforations on stamps of Holland are due to single line machines, it seems probable that an entirely new machine was brought into use for each new issue. The 1872 12½x12 machine had a defect—it did not perforate the

horizontal rows uniformly. The eight stamps on the right of the sheet show a perforation gauging $12\frac{1}{2}$, but the first stamp was $11\frac{1}{2}$ and the second about 12. This defect was on the machine to start with, as I have dated copies as far back as 1874, and was not due to an accident while perforating Transvaal stamps, as stated by M. Moens. This machine was in use many years but was out of use on several occasions, during which new punches were inserted. Hence, considerable variation in the size of the holes may be noted. I have pairs showing five distinct sizes of holes; the difference, however, is not one which can be clearly made out from single specimens, and it is therefore possible to classify them only into very small, large and intermediate holes.

At the time the large holes were appearing a new machine, without the $11\frac{1}{2}$ defect, came into use. The size of the punches, at first, is exactly the same as the last punches of the older machine. This last $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ machine also had a new set of punches just before the $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ came in. These new punches were so large that there is very little paper between the holes, and it is difficult to handle pairs as they are apt to separate so easily. From this time onward, the $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ machine has not been used again.

I hope I have made it clear that we are dealing with at least four different machines three of which, the 1864 1867 and 1886 machine, perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ uniformly, and one (1872) perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ with $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ on the left side of the horizontal rows, and that certainly this machine and the last one had their punches changed.

The next machine is one on which authorities differ. Mr. Gordon Smith states that it is useless to differentiate between 13, $13\frac{1}{2}$ and 14, but others consider it is possible to do so and that there were three distinct, single line machine, perforating respectively 13, $13\frac{1}{2}$ and 14. Personally, I have no doubt that there were three machines, as I find that certain stamps exist perforated 13 only, others 14 only and the majority 13×14 or $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$. For instance, the 1 cent, Arms type, is never found with any perforation but 14. It is clear, therefore, that a full 14 machine existed. The 2 cent, *thin* paper, Arms type, only exists perforated 13 small holes all around (the $13\frac{1}{2}$ clean cut in which this stamp is common, is a totally distinct machine and will be considered later). This gives us a full 13 machine. To account for the $13\frac{1}{2}$, so frequently found on other values, we must acknowledge a $13\frac{1}{2}$ machine and, if so, we are obliged to differentiate our stamps and these small perforations. As I am considering machines, and not stamps, at the present moment I may mention that the only stamps for which this 14 small-hole perforation was used are the 1867 issue; the thick paper 1 cent and 2 cent, Arms type; and the 5 cent and 2 gulden 50 cents of the 1872 issue, besides the first issues of Dutch Indies, Curacao and Surinam.

The only remaining machines are:

(1) That perforating $13\frac{1}{2}$, described as large holes, clean cut. I do not agree that the holes are always large or always clean cut but they are fairly distinct and much cleaner than the small hole machine, which produced holes which are little better than pin pricks. Catalogues give this $13\frac{1}{2}$ perforation (which is occasionally $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$ or $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$) for the 1872 issue, but do not mention it in the 1867 list. Messrs. Bright & Co. have long noted this perforation in their stock books. It is decidedly rare in the 1867 issue and exists with two modifications: (a) $13\frac{1}{2}$, clean cut, and (b) $13\frac{1}{2}$ ($13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$), smaller holes. Now, $13\frac{1}{2}$, *small* holes, never exists by itself,—it is always compounded with 14, the latter lines being vertical. It, therefore, seems probable that the punches of the old $13\frac{1}{2}$ (single line) machine were also changed and used to perforate a few sheets of the 1867 issue, both

vertically and horizontally, while the 14 machine was taking a rest. As I have said above, the 1867 and 1872 issues are of different sizes and, therefore, I think that it is unlikely that a new $13\frac{1}{2}$ clean cutting machine would have been purchased on two occasions, and consider that the $13\frac{1}{2}$ clean cut perforations in the 1867 issue are due to new punches of large diameter placed in the old $13\frac{1}{2}$ machine, which, in its youth, had produced very small holes. This is another case where definite information is sorely needed, but, until it comes, we must be content with considering the probabilities.

(2). The last machine, one which has superseded all others, gauges $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$. The diameter of the holes varies slightly, large and very large being those usually met with, but the $\frac{1}{2}$ cent is occasionally found with very small holes resembling those produced by the early punches on the 1872 $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ machine. This is the only value I have ever seen with the very small holes, but both the 20 cent and 25 cent of the 1872 issue show their latest printings with three sizes of holes. These, together with the minute perforation on the $\frac{1}{2}$ cent gives four sets of punches for the $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ machines or, what is more probable, there are several $12\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ machines—an idea which is likely, as it would be almost impossible to do all the perforating of Dutch stamps with one machine.

In concluding my preliminary remarks about perforations, I must mention a curious machine which was used for the second batch of Dutch Indies, Surinam and Curacao and a few of the 1872 issue of Holland. It gauges 14, but the holes are beautifully cut, extremely regular and even, and totally unlike the productions of the old, original 14 machine. Whether it is a perfectly distinct machine or not, I cannot say, but I think it more likely to be a very fine comb machine than a single-line and, as its productions were so excellent, it is curious that it was not in more general use. At one time I believed it to be a machine used for perforating fiscals, which had been used during an accident to a regular machine, as in Austria, but this is not so.



Historical Notes on the Republic of San Marino and its Postage Stamps.

BY JULES BOUVÈZ.

[Continued from page 50.]

A second peculiarity which is worthy of being noted in the stamps of San Marino of the first issue, is that the 10 cent blue was printed in pale blue and in dark blue. The pale blue shade is the rarer ; it is found only with the first cancellation of dots arranged in lozenge shape and bearing in the center **S M^{NO}**.

There were only ten sheets of the pale blue shade printed, that is 4000 stamps ; the rest of the issue, or 26,000 stamps, is dark blue

If account is taken of the quantities of 10, 20 and 30c which were surcharged on June 1st, 1892, the quantities put into use during the period of issue may be established as follows :

1). 2c green	issued 210 sheets, or	84 000 stamps
2). 2c yellow green	" 40 " "	16,000 "
3). 10c pale blue	" 10 " "	4,000 "
4). 10c dark blue	" 65 " "	26,000 "
5). 20c vermilion	" 550 " "	220,000 "
6). 30c brown	" 40 " "	16,000 "
7). 40c violet	" 63 " "	25,200 "

Although Italy was one of the twenty-two countries which adhered to the Postal Union Convention of October 9th, 1874, and, by virtue of the convention of March 2nd, 1877, correspondence dispatched from the Republic of San Marino should bear the same rates as though it originated in the kingdom of Italy, it was not until April 1st, 1890, that the Administration thought of issuing stamps of 5c and 25c to represent the rates on correspondence going to countries of the Union.

The two new values, typographed in color on plain white paper, having the same watermark as that of the stamps of the preceding issue, were perforated 14. The printing having been done all at one time, no peculiarity presented itself ; let us say, however, that the colors of these two stamps are very bright and that no defect in the engraving has been remarked.

There were issued : of the 5c orange, 150 sheets, or 60,000 stamps, and of the 25c carmine brown, 100 sheets, or 40,000 stamps

At the time that these two values, which compose the second issue, appeared, the postal business of San Marino had taken a certain development by reason of the publication there of a philatelic paper, the *San Marino Postal*, the issue of which each month reached 1500 to 2000 copies ; it was the first which had appeared in the Republic. This publication, sent from the chief office, not only justified the creation of the 5c orange stamp, the need for which had not been felt theretofore, but gave rise to the necessity, two years later, on June 14th, 1892, of a provisional issue in consequence of the creation of a new journal, the *San Marino Philatelist*, the first number of which, printed on January 1st, 1892, with more than 1000 copies, had

threatened to exhaust in a short time the remaining stock of the 5c orange stamps. In order not to be taken unawares and awaiting the printing of a new lot of these stamps, the Postal Administration of San Marino had surcharged with the figure "5" ten thousand of the 30c brown stamps and twenty thousand of the 10c dark blue, to ensure particularly the monthly prepayment of the papers appearing in the Republic, which were sent not only to the different parts of Europe but also to most of the foreign countries.

The application of these surcharges, made in black on the values indicated, took place with precipitation and was done by means of various hand stamps; this it is which explains the variety of surcharges which were produced and which are found on both the 10c dark blue and the 30c brown.

These surcharges may be catalogued as follows :

I. The "C" of "C^{mi}" is 3 mm. wide and there is a space $9\frac{1}{2}$ mm. between the right end of the bar under "mi" and the figure "5".

II. The letter "C" is only $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. wide and the space mentioned under type I is 11 mm. instead of $9\frac{1}{2}$.

III. Same remark as with type I, with this difference, that the line under "mi" measures only 4 mm. instead of $4\frac{1}{2}$.

IV. Same remark as with type II, excepting that the line under "mi" shows two disconnected parts.

V. The letter "C" is $2\frac{3}{4}$ mm. wide and the letters "m" and "i" of "mi" are 1 mm. apart.

VI. The letter "C" leans towards the left, and the bar under "mi" is thick and measures $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm., the distance between the right end of the bar and the figure "5" is 9 mm.

VII. Same remark as with the preceding type, but with "ini" instead of "mi".

VIII. Same remark as with type VII, excepting that the thick line under "mi" has a double line substituted for it.

IX. The surcharged figure "5" is only $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm wide and $4\frac{1}{2}$ high; the space between this figure and the line under "mi" is $10\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

X. Same remark as with type IX, but the line under "mi" is wavy instead of straight.

XI. Same remark as with type IX, but with a comma instead of a period after "mi".

XII. Same remark as with type IX, with the "i" of "mi" inverted.

XIII. The surcharge "C^{mi}" leans towards the left and the space between "mi" and the figure "5" is $9\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Moreover, the letter "C" is 5 mm. high while the figure "5" is only $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm. high.

XIV. Same type as the preceding, but with a double line under "mi" instead of a single line.

XV. The letter "C" and the figure "5" both measure 5 mm. in height and the third stroke of the letter "m" of "mi" is smaller than the other two.

XVI. Same remark as with the preceding type, but with a double line under "mi" instead of a thick line.

XVII. The figure "5" is very much swelled at the base and measures $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm in width and 6 mm. in height, whilst the letter "C" measures $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in width and $5\frac{1}{4}$ in height.

XVIII. The surcharged figure "5" is very thick and measures $4\frac{3}{4}$ mm by $5\frac{3}{4}$ mm.; on the other hand, the letter "C" is very thin and measures $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. by $5\frac{3}{4}$.

XIX. Same remark as with the preceding type, but with the printing of "mi" almost at the base of the "C".

The appearance of this provisional issue was strongly criticised by the philatelic press, which considered it, particularly on account of the numerous varieties of surcharge, as entirely speculative

However, we must acknowledge, based on the foregoing, that, apart from their varieties, these surcharges were justified by the needs of the postal service, since of the 5c orange stamp, which appeared on April 1st, 1890, only 65,000 copies had been printed and that this quantity could easily have been used in less than two years, particularly for the prepayment of the two publications of which we have spoken

It is also unjustly said that the two provisional issues which followed and which were made respectively on July 6th and September 7th, 1892, by the application of the surcharges "C^{mi} 10" and "10-10" on the 20c vermilion of the issue of August 1st, 1877, were considered speculative

The second provisional issue mentioned above was justified by the lack of 10c blue stamp, of which only 50,000 had been issued on August 1st, 1877, and 20,000 of which had to receive the surcharge "5 C^{mi}" on June 14th, 1891, to ensure the prepayment of periodical publications.

Whatever may have been said, it is easy to be convinced of the necessity which existed of having recourse to these two new surcharges and of the choice made by the San Marino post office of the 20c vermilion for these surcharges. Let it be well considered, in effect, that, on the one hand, the 20c stamp, of which 300,000 copies had been printed, had been one of the least used and that on the other hand, the stock of 30,000 10c stamps issued on August 1st, 1877, could easily be exhausted by the 6th of July, 1892, that is, after 15 years of use. Divided over these 15 years, the annual sale could, in fact, have been only 2000 copies, and this may be considered relatively very small if we take into account the fact that in ten years, from 1882 to 1892, the business at San Marino had more than doubled.

Although this small republic did not at the beginning furnish any statistics on its postal service of a nature to confirm in an exact and precise way the foregoing indications as to the sale of its postal values, we can, however, by means of certain comparative data drawn from official sources, conclude that in having recourse to surcharges the Republic of San Marino had solely for its object, as we have said, to ensure the regular carrying on of its postal service whilst awaiting the supply of new stamps ordered in Turin and which did not arrive until July 15th, 1892. In effect it will not be denied that in 1892, at the time when these surcharges of which we are speaking were made, the postal business at San Marino was at least as great as in most of the foreign colonies of the least importance. Now it is shown in the following table that in five colonies where the postal business was the lightest in 1882, more than one letter per inhabitant was sent on an average from each of these colonies.

Names of the Colonies.	Number of inhabitants in 1882.	Number of letters sent abroad in 1882.
French Guiana	27,082	42,455
British Honduras	27,452	19,850
Mayotte	10,143	3,997
Seychelles	14,081	9,454
St. Pierre & Miquelon	5,439	27,047
Totals,	84,197	102,803

Merely taking the figures of the above totals as a basis of calculation for San Marino, we see that this republic could have consumed in 15 years its

30,000 10c blue stamps. It is therefore, unjust that the provisional issue of September 7th, 1892, should be considered as speculative. It is also to be observed that the 10c served not only for the prepayment of shipments at reduced prices for foreign countries, but also to prepay, concurrently with the 20c stamp, registered letters for Italy as well as letters for abroad for the prepayment of which there did not exist at that time the special value, which special value was not created until July 15th, 1892.

The surcharge " C_{mi}^{10} " on the 20c vermilion of the second provisional issue of July 6th, 1872, presents, like the preceding one, several varieties the characteristics of which we indicate below :

Type I. In this type the said surcharge is thick ; the word " C_{mi}^{10} ", including the bar under "mi", measures $7\frac{3}{4}$ mm. in height by $5\frac{1}{2}$ in width ; the figure 10 measures $4\frac{3}{4}$ by $5\frac{3}{4}$ mm.

Type II. The surcharge is thin ; " C_{mi}^{10} " measures $7\frac{1}{2}$ in height by $5\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in width ; the figure "10" is very slender and measures $5\frac{1}{3}$ mm. by 4 mm.

Type III. The surcharge is thick as in type I. but does not measure more than $7\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in height and the "10" $5\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Type IV. Same remark as for type III with this difference : that the period after "mi" has a comma substituted for it and the nought of the "10" is a little thicker.

Type V. The surcharge " C_{mi}^{10} " measures 8 mm. in length and the letters "mi" lean slightly towards the left.

Type VI. Same observation as on the preceding type, with this difference : that the letters "mi" are printed almost at the base of the "C".

Type VII. Same remark as on type V, except that the nought of "10" measures 3 mm. in width instead of $2\frac{3}{4}$ mm.

Type VIII. The surcharge " C_{mi}^{10} " is thin and the surcharge "10" is thick. The former measures 5 mm. in width and the latter 5 mm.

Type IX. In this type the surcharge is thicker than in all the others, and this thickness is remarked specially in the nought of "10".



As to the provisional issue "10-10" on 20c vermilion which was made on September 7th, 1892, it exists in only one type ; we reproduce it above. Let us say, however, that in certain copies it is found that the surcharge "10" on the left measures 3 mm. wide whilst that on the right measures $2\frac{3}{4}$ mm. There exist also a few copies in which the lower horizontal bar of the figure "1" at the right is ill shapen.

Of all these surcharged stamps which we have just described there was but a comparatively small number which served for the prepayment of postal shipments ; the larger part was bought up by dealers and collectors ; therefore but few of these values are found cancelled. So that when, on July 15th, 1892, the 5c olive green stamp appeared, the stock of the provisional 5c - which had lasted only six months - was almost exhausted.

(To be continued.)

Some Further Notes Upon Siam.

By C. A. Howes.

Leaving the islands the Pacific and the East Indies, let us now turn to the mainland of Asia where we shall find more of those strange countries and peoples which the stamp collector is apt to know more about in a general way than anyone else. From the Phillippines it is not far to Siam, a country whose stamps are deservedly popular, particularly with English collectors. The stamps themselves present little that is notable in the design save for the various pictures of the present progressive ruler and the curious native characters in the inscriptions. It is with the potentate, therefore, one of the five native rulers of Asia whom the Western powers have not yet desposed or "protected," that we will concern ourselves. The emperors of Japan and China alone stand as really independent sovereigns; the Emperor of Corea is nominally so, but the diplomatic tug of war between Japan and Russia at his capital will likely end, sooner or later, in the absorption of his dominions by one or the other power; the Shah of Persia is really under Russian dictation; and the King of Siam, though he has so far held his own, finds the English and the French striving for the upper hand in his kingdom.

The name Siam, like so many of the names of Eastern countries as known to the West, is not the name by which the natives speak of their land. Siam is derived from the Malay *Soyam* or *Siyam* meaning "brown," and referring to the color of the race, while to the natives of the country itself the Kingdom is known as *Thai* or "free," and often as *Muang Thai* or "land of the free."

Siam secured its independence in the twelfth century and its capital was laid at Ayuthia on the Menam river, some 45 miles north of Bangkok, about the year 1350. Four hundred years later the Burmese overran the country and, in 1767, sacked and destroyed Ayuthia. The Burmese were finally overthrown, but King Chulalok, having dreamed that the former sovereigns drove him away from Ayuthia (I believe he was an usurper), decided to move his capital. He accordingly followed the Menam southward to Tonaburee and there, on April 21, 1782, founded the new capital which we know as Bangkok. The full native name of the city is *Krung Tape Maha Nakhon Ameraina Kosindr Mahindr Ayuthia*, which would be rather long for a postmark, but is generally shortened to "Krung Tape" by the inhabitants.

Bangkok lies about 20 miles from the mouth of the Menam and is a thriving city of about three quarters of a million people. It is semi-aquatic like Venice, its main arteries being canals, and it is accessible to the largest ships. Its importance as a trading port led the British representative there to avail himself of the convenience of postage stamps. As the mail sent to the outside world from Bangkok went in his charge *via* Singapore it was only natural that he should obtain his supply of stamps from the Straits Settlements, placing on them the letter "B" as a distinguishing mark. The first stamps so surcharged were issued on September 1, 1882.

But the native government had already undertaken, in 1881, to establish an interior postal system of its own. A fine general post office was erected in Bangkok in 1882 and all houses in the city were numbered by painting the number in Siamese on small boards, one of which was affixed to each house. Letter boxes were placed in various parts of the city and it is said their lot-

toms were made of sandal-wood to impart a fragrance to the missives and thereby cultivate a taste for letters. Postage stamps were ordered in England and the service was finally opened to the public on August 4, 1883. At first the postal privileges were much abused by evil-minded natives who sent by this means many anonymous letters to princes and nobles, defaming and cursing those in whose presence they would not have dared to utter a word. Heavy packages of trash were also sent out of spite, the charges to be collected on delivery; but this sort of thing did not last. The surcharged Straits Settlements' stamps were used for foreign postal matter until July 1, 1885, when Siam joined the Postal Union and its stamps became good for international postage. The mails are carried by boat where such can be used, and by foot runners and even elephants often through the worst and wildest jungle; yet such is the efficiency of the Post Department, which is managed by two Germans that the mails travel quickly and are seldom lost even on the difficult routes to remote parts of the country.



The Siamese stamps have borne but one design since they first appeared — the head of King Chulalongkorn, the present able ruler of the country. The first issue, beautifully engraved in *taille-douce*, gave the head in profile, the succeeding "postage and revenue" set presented a portrait of the royal features. The founder of the present dynasty was King Chulalok, of whom we have already spoken, who ascended the throne in 1781. The present king is the fifth of the line. He was the ninth child of his father and predecessor on the throne, King Mongkut, or Somdetch Phra Paramindr Maha Mongkut, one of the most notable monarchs who ever held sway over an Oriental country. He was a great scholar and a progressive ruler, who saw the advantages of Western civilization and began the modernization of Siam. He concluded commercial treaties with England and France; reorganized his army and navy—such as they were—and built roads and canals. His death occurred on October 1, 1868, and the same night the present king was chosen to succeed him by the "Sanabodee" or Council of the highest princes and nobles of the realm, who meet in night sessions and attend to affairs of state.

King Chulalongkorn, whose full name is Phra Bat Somdetch Phra Paramindr Maha Chulalongkorn Phra Chula Chom Klao Chow Yu Hua, was born September 22, 1853, and was, therefore, but fifteen years old when he came to the throne. His father was careful to give him a liberal education along Western lines, his early training being entrusted to an American lady, Mrs. Leonowens, and later a Capt. John Bush had a large share in shaping the mind of the future king. His mind was fully impressed by the advantages which were thus opened up to him, and he strove to continue the era of progress which his father had inaugurated in Siam.

The coronation of the king took place on November 11, 1868, but it is a rule in Siam, which is under Buddhist influence, that the king, as well as every official in the service, must, at some time in their lives, have been a priest; and when a man enters the priesthood his former life must be entirely

renounced. The young king, thus suddenly elevated, had not undergone this requirement. He had, therefore, to enter a monastery and spend some twenty-one days in the Buddhist priesthood. On his return it was necessary that he be recrowned, since his former life had been put away; the second ceremony was, therefore, performed on November 16, 1873, making a rather unique experience for His Majesty.



Like all of his race he is small of stature, being slight of figure and very erect. He is a handsome man with a very fair complexion for a Siamese — like a European bronzed by the sun. His countenance is frank and is lighted up by fine, intelligent, dark eyes. He has been a most progressive ruler and has spared no effort to increase the happiness and prosperity of his people. The abolition of the old etiquette, which required all who entered the august presence of the sovereign to prostrate themselves, was one of his first acts after his accession, and all classes are now admitted freely to audience and may approach the king standing erect. He abolished slavery in his dominion, the emancipation beginning to take effect in 1872. He is a century ahead of most of his subjects but is making strenuous efforts to bring them up to his level by encouraging education and granting most liberal facilities for research. He has sent numbers of young Siamese noblemen to England, France and Germany to be educated at his own expense and to enlarge their ideas by contact with Western civilization. Although the king shows great favor to Europeans he does not display any undue predilection for them but avails himself of their assistance in leavening the mass of native officialdom. Is not such a portrait an interesting one to have in one's albums?

Of the two stamps shown above the first gives a three quarter face portrait quite similar to the profile on the first issue. The second was a "rejected die" of which it is said some sheets were printed and sent, by inadvertance, to one of the remote provinces where they were mostly used up. A comparison of the two stamps confirms the judgment of the officials in rejecting the second design, for the likeness is certainly poor.



The watermark of the Siamese stamps has usually been described as a "lotus flower." It may resemble, at first glance, the conventionalized lotus blossom used for a watermark on some stamps manufactured by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., but in this case it is something entirely different. It is an emblem used by the royal house of Siam and is called a *chakr*, translated literally as "wheel." It represents a mythological circular weapon which, when thrown, was supposed to return, boomerang like, to the thrower. It usually has as a companion weapon a trident called the *Kri*. The two are

used as a crest on the royal coat-of-arms and the *chakr* appears on Siamese naval flags to denote rank, as the star is used by us. The illustration at the right is copied from a seal on an official letter and shows the usual form of the emblem.

In closing with Siam it may be well to state that the standard coin of the country is the *Tical*, worth now about 30 cents of our money. That is not the native name, however, which is *bat*. There are both old and new coins in circulation; the old silver tical is an irregular ball with a deep cleavage on one side bearing the mint-marks; the new one is a modern flat, circular, piece bearing the King's head on one side and the arms on the reverse. The *bat* is divided into 4 *salung*, or 8 *fuang*, or 16 *sik*, or 32 *pies*, or 64 *atts*, or 128 *lots* (*lotte* is the French spelling). The *salung* and *fuang* are represented by silver coins. The smaller pieces are represented by copper or composition coins. Cowrie shells have also been used as money in Siam, as well as in most countries bordering the Indian ocean. Of these it took some 10,000 to equal a tical.

Some one has asked about the curious apostrophe-like characters in the corners of the three lower values of the first issue. These are simply the Siamese figure 1, the denomination being expressed in the elliptical tablet above the head.



Notes Upon Stamps and their Varieties.

BY GEO. L. TOPPAN.

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[Continued from page 59.]

Colombian Republic.

RIO HACHA ISSUE.

1901.

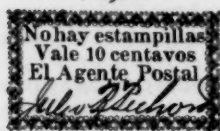


Fig. 223.

There are two settings, or types, for this series, (Fig. 223.)

Type I.—The stamps are 17mm. high.

Type II.—The stamps are 19mm. high.

REGISTERED LETTER STAMPS.

1870.

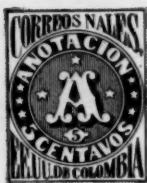


Fig. 224.



Fig. 225.

5c. Type I.—The background is composed of vertical lines, (Fig. 224 and 225)

5c. Type II.—The background is composed of horizontal lines.

Antioquia.

1869.



Fig. 226.



Fig. 227.



Fig. 228.

5c. Type I.—The numerals in the corners are of solid color and their flags are long and thin. (Fig. 226)

5c. Type II.—The numerals in the corners are shaded and their flags are short and thick. (Fig. 227.)

10c. *Blue*.—This is an error of color; the stamp (Fig. 228) being printed in the color of the two and one-half centavos.

1875.



Fig. 229.



Fig. 230.

5c. Type I.—The numerals of value are colorless upon a ground of solid color. (Fig. 229.)

5c. Type II.—The numerals of value are colored and upon a colorless ground. (Fig. 230.)

5c. Type III.—There is a colorless pearl to the left of the word "CORREOS" instead of a cross as in types I and II.

1886.



Fig. 231.

10c. *Var.*—This stamp is known, *se tenant* with the normal variety, with the centre erased so that only the frame is printed.

50c. *Rose on Buff*.—The fifty centavos in this color is due to the inclusion, through error, of a cliché of this value in the plate of the ten centavos. The type of both this and the 10c. is figure 231.

1890.



Fig. 232.

20c. *Violet-brown*.—A cliché of this value was included, by error, in the plate of the fifty centavos. Hence its existence in this color. (Fig. 232.)

1892.



Fig. 233.

2½c. *Black on gray*.—A cliché of this value was, in error, included in the plate of the five centavos, (Fig. 233) thus accounting for its existence in this color.

1902.



Fig. 234.

3c. *Blue*.—By an error a cliché of this value was included in the plate of the two centavos. Type as Fig. 234.

Bolívar,

1863-66.



Fig. 235.

10c. Var. I.—There are nine stars surrounding the shield. (Fig. 235.)

10c. Var. II.—There are but eight stars surrounding the shield.

Both varieties are found, side by side, upon the same plate.

1879.



Fig. 236.

20c. *Green*.—This is an error of color, though we are unable to explain.

how it occurred as green was not used for any of this series (Fig. 236). It is found on white paper only.

Cundinamarca.

1883.



Fig. 237.

5c. Var. I.—The ball of the "5's" is large and quite prominent. (Fig. 237).

5c. Var. II.—This is distinguished from Var. I by the ball of the "5's" which is very small and not at all prominent. It is the re-engraved form of type I.

Panama.

1894.



Fig. 238.

HABILITADO.

1894

1

Fig. 239.

HABILITADO.

1894

1

CENTAVO.

Fig. 240.

HABILITADO.

1894

5

CENTAVOS.

Fig. 241.

HABILITADO.

1894

5

CENTAVOS.

Fig. 242.

HABILITADO.

1894

5

CENTAVOS.

Fig. 243.

HABILITADO.

1894

10

CENTAVOS.

Fig. 244.

HABILITADO.

1894

10

CENTAVOS.

Fig. 245.

This series, surcharged upon that of 1892-94 (Fig. 238), is rich in errors as, besides surcharges incorrectly placed, we find the following:—

1c on 2c. Var. 1.—The first "A" of "HABILITADO" is missing.

1c on 2c. Var. 2.—There is a comma after "CENTAVO". (Type of surcharge as Fig. 239).

1c on 2c. Var. 3.—"CCNTAVO" instead of "CENTAVO".

- 1c on 2c. Var. 4.—Inverted "A" used for the "v" of "CENTAVO".
 1c on 2c. Var. 5.—"CENTAVO" omitted entirely. (Vars. 3, 4 and 5 are surcharged as in Fig. 240)
 5c on 20c. Var. 1.—"HABILITADO" is entirely omitted.
 5c on 20c. Var. 2.—There is a comma after "CENTAVOS". These are surcharged as in Fig. 241).
 5c on 20c. Var. 3.—The "o" of "HABILITADO" is omitted.
 5c on 20c. Var. 4.—"HABILITADO" is entirely omitted.
 5c on 20c. Var. 5.—"CENTAVOS" instead of "CENTAVOS".
 5c on 20c. Var. 6.—There is a comma after "CENTAVOS". (Vars. 3, 4, 5 and 6 are surcharged as in Fig. 242).
 5c on 20c. Var. 7.—There is a comma after "CENTAVOS". (This is surcharged as Fig. 243).
 10c on 50c. Var. 1.—"1894" is omitted.
 10c on 50c. Var. 2.—There is a comma after the word "CENTAVOS". (Vars. 1 and 2 are surcharged as in Fig. 244).
 10c on 50c. Var. 3.—"CENTAVOS" misspelled "CENTAVOS".
 10c on 50c. Var. 4.—There is a comma after "CENTAVOS".
 10c on 50c. Var. 5.—The "s" of "CENTAVOS" is omitted.
 10c on 50c. Var. 6.—The word "HABILITADO" is omitted. (Vars. 3 to 6 are subcharged as in Fig. 245.)†

Santander.

1886.



Fig. 246.

5c. *Red Violet*.—Through an error the lower label of one of the stamps in the plate of the ten centavos value is inscribed "CINCO CENTAVOS" instead of "DIAZ CENTAVOS." This gives us the anomaly of a stamp upon which the numerals read "10" and the inscription reads FIVE ("CINCO.") (type as Fig. 246)

Tolima.

1871.



Fig. 247.

†The issues of the Republic of Panama will be considered later under PANAMA.

5c. Var.—Here the word "CINCO" is misspelled "CINGO." (Fig. 247.)

1884.



Fig. 248.

2 p. Violet—A variety of this stamp (Fig. 248) is known in which the value is entirely omitted.

1886.



Fig. 249.



Fig. 250.



Fig. 251.

5c. Type I.—This variety (No. 36 in the *Standard Catalogue*) is typographed. The distinctive features of this, as well as of the other two varieties, are to be found in the lower label, which, in this instance, is very evenly placed with regard to the upper portion of the stamp. The numerals are large and well shaped, their flags are perfectly straight across the top, are broad and round up very abruptly at the right end. The letters of "CENTAVOS" are all well formed, and the impression is very clear and distinct. (Fig. 249).

5c. Type II.—The lower label is very unevenly placed. At the left the oval containing the numeral is about 1 mm. below the upper portion of the stamp while, at the right, it almost touches. The numerals are large but poorly shaped; the tops of their flags are more or less concave; they are thinner and their lower curve not nearly so abrupt as in type I.

The letters of "CENTAVOS" are poorly formed, especially the "r" and the "a." The whole impression, which is from a lithographic stone, is coarse and blotchy. (Fig. 250).

5c. Type III.—Lithographed as Type II. The lower label is evenly placed. The numerals, while large and very poorly shaped, are tipped slightly forward and their flags, though slightly concaved along the top, tip slightly backwards. The letters of "CENTAVOS" are well formed, as in type I, and the impression is generally very good. The distinctive feature of this type, however, is a slight ornament which has been added to the top of the ovals containing the numerals and which is not found in either of the other types. (Fig. 251).



Fig. 252.



Fig. 253.

10c. Type I.—The numerals of value, which are large and heavy, are enclosed in the circular ends of the lower label. This lower label is curved and inscribed "CENTAVOS". The stamp is typographed. (Fig. 252).

Through an error the insertion of a cliché of the ten centavos in the plate of the five centavos gives us a 10c *Brown*.

10c. Type II.—The numerals of value are within an octagonal tablet. The lower label, inscribed "CENTAVOS", is straight instead of curved; there are heavy, vertical shade-lines between the lower label and the rest of the stamp and it is lithographed. (Fig. 253).



Fig. 254.



Fig. 255.

50c. Type I.—The stamp is typographed and the impressions are uniformly good. The numerals of value are square and well shaped; the "o" being particularly noticeable in this respect. The letters of "CENTAVOS" are small and well formed, measuring $10\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ mm. With the exception of a few dots just above the lower label the space between it and the upper portion of the stamp is unshaded. (Fig. 254).

50c. Type II.—The stamp is lithographed and the impressions are uniformly poor. The numerals of value are round and poorly formed, especially the "o". The letters of "CENTAVOS" are large and irregular, measuring $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ mm. The space between the lower label and the rest of the stamp is heavily shaded with vertical lines. (Fig. 255).



Fig. 256.



Fig. 257.

1p. Type I.—The stamp is typographed and the impressions are good. The numerals are in oval disks; the letters of "UN PESO" are quite large

and, excepting for a few dots, there is no shading between the lower label and the balance of the stamp. (Fig. 256).

2p. Type II. The stamp is lithographed and the impressions, while better than most of the other lithographed series, are rather blotchy. The numerals are upon octagonal tablets; the letters "UN PESO" are somewhat smaller, the "o" being very round. The space between the lower label and the balance of the stamp is heavily shaded with vertical lines. (Fig. 257).



Fig. 258.



Fig. 259.

2p. Type I.—This is the perforated stamp. Its color is a pale, dull violet. The colorless frame-line above the word "PESOS" is not continuous, being broken in several places. There are heavy, vertical shade lines between the lower label, including the tablets containing the numerals of value, and the upper portion of the stamp; the "E" and the first "s" of "PESOS" are taller than the other letters so that the "s" would impinge upon the colorless frame-line above but for the fact that the line is missing at this particular point. The numerals are poorly executed; the flag of the one on the left is too high while, in that on the right, it is too low. (Fig. 258).

2p. Type II.—This is the imperforate stamp. (Fig. 259). Its color is a bright, reddish violet. The colorless frame-line above the word "PESOS" is unbroken and there is a colored line above it.

The letters of the word "PESOS" are of uniform height. The numerals, while poorly executed, are even and present a better appearance than do those of type I.

There are two varieties of this stamp, as follows:

Var. 1.—Easily recognized by the fact that the numerals in the corners have been omitted.

Var. 2.—Through an error a cliché of this value was inserted in the plate of the five pesos value; the result being the two pesos stamp printed in *Orange*.



Fig. 260.



Fig. 261.

5p. Type I.—The numerals are very poorly shaped, their flags being long, thin and extending upwards as well as to the right. The vertical shad-

ing between the lower label and the balance of the stamp is heavy and distinct. The stamp is known perforated only. (Fig. 260.)

5p. Type II.—The numerals are better shaped, their flags being thicker and not extending upwards. There is practically no shading in the space between the lower label and the balance of the stamp and there is a slight ornament above the tablets containing the numerals which is wanting in type I. The stamp is known imperforate only. (Fig. 261).

Through a curious error in the plate this value is found with the *lower label inverted*.

Reviews.

THE STAMP COLLECTORS' ANNUAL.*

We have been greatly interested in the contents of this little booklet of something over an hundred pages. As its title indicates it is a short, newsy review of the philatelic events of the past year, especially those of interest to an Englishman, and contains, besides, many other items of interest, such as "The Present Position of Revenue Stamp Collecting" by that indefatigable student, Mr. A. Preston Pearce; A catalogue and guide to values of the Stamps of Great Britain; Our Philatelic Bookshelf; Through Philatelic London; Philately in the Provinces; The Experiences of a Philatelic Lecturer, etc.

The paper and typography are good and, altogether, we feel sure that its perusal will much more than repay one for its trifling cost.—G. L. T.

STANLEY GIBBONS' PRICED CATALOGUE.†

We have refrained from reviewing the first portion of this work until now, preferring to wait until the second section had been published, for it must be remembered that the publishers have again abandoned the single volume catalogue in favor of the too volume style.

The work is too well and favorably known to need more than a casual review. Many portions have been entirely rewritten and much useful and interesting information has been inserted, in the form of concise notes, throughout the two volumes.

The general make up and typography is good, as it always is, and many of the cuts have been replaced by new, and much better, ones.

*The Stamp Collectors' Annual, and Year-Book of Philately, Edited by Percy C. Bishop, Published by G. Nissen & Co., 77-78 High Holborn, London, W. C. England. 1sh.

† Stanley Gibbons' Priced Catalogue, Part I., Stamps of the British Empire Part II., Stamps of Foreign Countries, 1904. Stanley Gibbons, Inc., 167 Broadway, New York, N. Y. 72c post free.

Even more attention than formerly seems to have been given to the various shades and perforations, which are listed most exhaustively, especially in that portion devoted to the stamps of the British Empire.

The question of prices, too, shows careful revision; those of Part I (British Empire) being, as a whole, somewhat advanced over former quotations while, on the contrary, those of the countries outside of England and its colonies come in for many sweeping reductions, this being especially true of many of the old and better Europeans, notably the old Germans.

Believing, as we do, that a dealer has a perfect right to place whatever price he pleases upon the goods which he has for sale, we have no desire to criticize them in this particular instance, especially as we are confronted, on page IX of Part I, with the following statement:

"THIS IS A CATALOGUE OF WHAT WE HAVE FOR SALE at the time of going to press. It is not—like many other lists—one in which the prices have been copied, or with prices fixed low to enable the dealer to buy the Stamps under their true value." And again, upon the second page of the "Introduction" to Part II, with: "An important point to be remembered is that *all prices* quoted in our Catalogue are in every case based upon *stock in hand* at the time of going to press. We do not believe in 'guess work prices,' or those based upon the average of other catalogues."

Now, while not in the least receding from our position as outlined above, we cannot but admit that the peculiar and insistent reiteration of the phrases "guess-work prices" and "average of other catalogues", both in their own recent publications and outside advertising space, points rather suspiciously to the presence of "a colored man in the wood pile"

If it be not so, why should it be necessary for a house so well and favorably known as that of Stanley Gibbons to so loudly proclaim their belief in the "I am holier than thou" doctrine and, by so doing, cast innuendoes broadcast at all other publishers?

We are not in sympathy with that spirit of progressiveness which induces one to attempt to build up a business by disparaging his competitors and are greatly surprised that the firm in question should have descended to it.

One more point and we will close: upon the first page of the "Introduction" to Part II. is the following statement:

"A careful examination of the various Stock Books of all the countries—compiled from time to time, and which contain the bulk of the stock held by the firm—shows that whereas those books which contain the stamps of Great Britain and her possessions, dealt with in Part I. of the Catalogue, are often practically depleted within a few months of compilation, those which contain the stamps of 'Foreign Countries' have been 'picked over' to a very much smaller extent, even when they have been made up for a twelvemonth or a longer period.

"The obvious inference to be drawn from these facts is that in proportion to the stamps of the British Empire those of Foreign Countries must have been priced too high, and consequently collectors will find a very GREAT REDUCTION in the prices of the stamps in Part II.

"By bringing into line the prices in this part, it is anticipated that a revived popularity and greater demand will be created for the stamps of this section, which will probably necessitate *rises* at no very distant date, but until that takes place the new prices will generally hold good until the publication of a succeeding edition."

We have no desire to quarrel with this statement, but we incline to the opinion that no amount of cutting of prices will ever succeed in eradicating

the Englishman's predilection for the stamps of the British Empire; that of the German for the stamps of his own country, etc., etc., and we hardly expect to see the Messrs. Senf follow this lead and materially reduce their prices on old German's: Yvert & Tellier reduce their prices on the stamps of France and its colonies, and so on ad infinitum, while so far as we are concerned, we are very sure that we have no intention of marking down the stamps of the United States and its insular possessions.—G. L. T.

“THE INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY OF PHILATELIC LITERATURE COLLECTORS, DEALERS AND PUBLISHERS.”†

A little pamphlet of sixty-five pages and cover, with the above title has reached us and, as a first attempt in this particular line, it is very creditable. The contents show a wide range of treatment of the subject and some of the chapters are of very permanent value; such as, the list of the “Most Important Scientific Journals of the World, published to the end of 1900,” by Victor Suppantchitsch; Dr. Rommel's article on “Philatelic Journals of 1901 and 1902”; the list of “Errors of Printing in Numbering Volumes”; the “Reference list of Current Periodicals”; and the two lists of “Collectors and Dealers in Philatelic Literature.”

We note some errors in the list of collectors. Unfortunately, a number of gentlemen who have died are included among the list of collectors, but, as a first attempt at making a list of this kind, it is certainly remarkably correct and valuable. The list of dealers will certainly be a great aid to those who collect literature and are seeking means of making additions to their libraries.

We recommend this little handbook to all collectors of philatelic literature.—J. S. R.

†The International Directory of Philatelic Literature Collectors, Dealers and Publishers by Victor Marsh. 389, Brixton Road, London, S. W. Price one shilling and three pence.





AUSTRIA.—Mr. P. F. Bruner has shown us the 4 heller, perforated, upon vertically laid paper.



FRANCE.—CAVALLE.—Mr. E. B. Power informs us that the following stamps, as listed upon page 258 of our catalogue, do not exist. They should, therefore, be deleted from the catalogue :

- No. 862. 20c brown-violet.
- " 863. 30c lilac.
- " 864. 40c red and pale-blue.



DEDEAGH.—We are informed by Mr. E. B. Power that the following stamps, page 259 of our catalogue, do not exist and, therefore, they should be deleted :

- No. 912. 20c brown-violet.
- " 913. 30c lilac.
- " 914. 40c red and pale blue.
- " 919. 20pi on 5fr dark-blue and buff.



GUADELOUPE.—*La Cote R  elle* says that "we are informed that the stamps already surcharged in 1903, 40 centimes and 1 franc, have received a new surcharge of the date '1904'. It is printed at the top, at the bottom, in black, in blue or in red. We will give a list of the varieties in one of our next numbers."

We will wait for this list before chronicling them regularly.



HAYTI.—We have seen some sets of the recent issues, both regular and commemorative, without the control-stamp. These stamps, we are informed, are not regular and are not recognized by the Haytian government. Our informant states that the manufacturers of the stamps in question receive their pay, or a portion of it, in unused stamps and that it was to prevent the use of these very stamps that the control stamp was applied.

He states, further, that these stamps without the control-mark have never even been to Hayti but have come directly from Paris, where the stamps are manufactured.



LIBERIA.—Mr. E. B. Power has called our attention to several errors in our list of the official stamps surcharged "ORDINARY" as follows :

- No. 63. 2c green.
 " 67a. 16c lilac.
 " 77. 24c olive green on yellow.
 " 80. 5c violet and green.
 " 81. 24c olive green on yellow.
 " 82. 32c greenish blue.
 " 83. 5c dark carmine and black.

None of the above stamps exist and in the addenda numbers 78 and 79 are the same stamps as numbers 72 and 73 of the catalogue. All of the above stamps must, therefore, be deleted from the catalogue.

Most of the above we chronicled upon the authority of *Der Philatelist*.



MAURITIUS.—According to *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* there were 1,213,440 of the 4c green and violet printed instead of 90,000 as previously stated.

Ewen's Weekly Stamp News states that the 15c Labourdonnais is now obsolete, all of them having been surcharged.

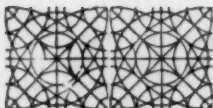


PHILIPPINES.—Mr. John Zug writes us that the dates of issue of the new stamps (series of 1902) were as follows:

- 1c green, Sept. 4, 1903.
 2c carmine, Oct. 3, 1903.
 13c dark violet-brown, Jan. 4, 1904.
 50c orange, Sept. 4, 1903.



ST. LUCIA.—We learn from the *London Philatelist* that neither the 2p nor the 2s, King's head were ever issued for use in this colony, they should, therefore, be deleted from the catalogue.





AZORES.—Several of our contemporaries note the appearance of the postage due set which we chronicled for Portugal in January as having been surcharged for use in these islands.

Postage Due stamps.

Perforated.

Blue surcharge.

5r bistre

10r orange

30r dark green

40r lilac

50r red

100r light blue

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.—

The *London Philatelist* announces another value of the new series.

Adhesive stamp.

Watermarked Crown and C. A.

Perforated 14.

1s blue and black

BULGARIA.—The New England Stamp Co. has shown us a new postage due stamp, our type D5.

Postage Due stamp.

Perforated 11½.

20s dull blue

CEYLON.—The *Philatelic Record* notes the 2c King's head overprinted "ON SERVICE."

Official stamp.

Watermarked Crown and C. A.

Perforated 14.

Black surcharge.

2c orange-brown

COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC.—Mr. W. F. Gregory has shown us two revenue stamps used for postage upon a cover addressed to New York.

Roughly described they are as follows: 1p. size 31x36mm The coat of-arms of the Republic, surmounted by an eagle, as a central design. Above: "TIMBRE NACIONAL"—1903, 1904" in two lines. "REPUBLICA—COLOMBIA" in curves at sides of central portion. "UN I PESO—CLASE PRIMERA" in two lines at bottom.

3p. Same general design. "REPÚBLICA DE" in vertical line at left, "COLOMBIA" at right. The value is altered and "CLASE SEGUNDA" in a slightly curved line at bottom with numerals of value in lower corners.

The above were used together (two of the 1p and one of the 3p) on the same cover and were cancelled, with a rubber stamp, "AGEN. POST. NAL.—FEB. 12. 1904—BUENAVENTURA". in three lines enclosed by a single-lined, rectangular frame.

Revenue stamps used postally.

Imperforate.

1p black on salmon

3p " " pale blue

Barranquilla Issue.—Mr. W. F. Gregory has shown us the following provisional issues for this province, all having prepaid letters addressed to New York City: The left, vertical half of the 5 pesos (our number 307) postmarked "Jan. 12, 1904" and, on the back of the cover: "Barranquilla. Jan. 27, 1904."

The right, diagonal half of the 10 pesos (our number 308) postmarked "Manizales, Ene. 18, 1904" and, on the back of the cover, "Barranquilla, Feb. 1, 1904."

Adhesive stamps.

Imperforate.

2½p (half of 5p) green on blue

5p (half of 10p) green on pale green

FRENCH OFFICES IN CHINA.

Tchong King.—Mr. A. H. Lamborn informs us that he has specimens of the 1c and 5c upon the stamps of Indo-China surcharged "CHINE" and "Tchong King" (our numbers 1118 and 1121) in red.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated 14x13½.

Red surcharge

1c black on lilac blue

5c yellow green

HAYTI.—We have discovered in our stock the following errors in the control-stamps upon the recently issued series:

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated 12.

Blue surcharge.

Commemorative Series.

1c green, double surcharge

2c rose and black, double surcharge

7c maroon and black, inverted "

Regular Series.

1c green, double surcharge

2c red " "

10c orange brown, double surcharge

50c violet " " "

50c " " inverted "

INDIA.—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* notes the appearance of the higher values of the King's head type.

Adhesive stamps.

Watermarked Star.

Perforated 14.

3r green and brown

5r violet and ultramarine

JAMAICA.—We have received another value of the new type as illustrated by us in December.

Adhesive stamp.

Watermarked Crown and C. A.

Perforated 14.

1d carmine and black

NICARAGUA.—The American Stamp Co. has shown us the 1c on 10c official stamp with a Roman I in

stead of a figure "1" in the upper left corner. We have, also, found the same stamp in our stock as well as one without figure in the upper left corner. This last variety is on one of the stamps with the ornament composed of three horizontal lines.

We have also received the 1c on 10c and the 2c on 3c official stamps with inverted surcharge, including all the varieties and ornaments and, in addition, a new value has appeared.

The above are all of the type chronicled by us in November.

Official stamps.

Perforated.

Black surcharge.

50c on 20c bistre-brown

1c on 10c violet (Capital I in upper left corner)

1c on 10c violet (Without figure in upper left corner.)

Surcharge inverted.

1c on 10c violet

1c on 10c violet (5 vars. of ornaments)

1c on 10c " ("Centovo")

1c on 10c " ("Contavo")

1c on 10c " (Capital I in upper left corner)

1c on 10c violet (Without figure in upper left corner)

2c on 3c green

2c on 3c green (3 vars. of ornaments)

2c on 3c green ("Centovos")

2c on 3c green ("Contavos")

PANAMA.—Mr. E. B. Power reports the following varieties:

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated.

I. Issued in the City of Colon.

Surcharged in

carmine

*República
de Panamá.*

1c green, double surcharge

1c " inverted "

1c " double " one inverted

1c " " " " diagonal

Black surcharge.

10c yellow, inverted surcharge

20c violet " "

Registration Return Receipt stamp.

Surcharged, as above, in black and

"A. R. COLON COLOMBIA" in violet.
5c blue

II. Issued in the City of Panama.

Registration stamp.

Surcharged "PANAMA" in red at each side and "R. COLON" in a circle in violet.

10c yellow

PHILIPPINES.—We have seen a new envelope surcharged for use here.

Envelope stamp.

Green surcharge.

1c green on white, size 5

RUSSIA.—*Offices in the Turkish Empire.*—We find that we have omitted to chronicle the following values :

Adhesive stamps.

Vertically laid paper.

Perforated 14½.

Red surcharge.

10p on 2k yellow green

5p on 50k violet and green

SENEGAL.—We are indebted to Mr. A. H. Lamborn for information regarding three new stamps for this colony. They are surcharged upon the Postage due stamps.

Adhesive stamps.

Imperforate.

Black surcharge.

10c on 50c lilac

10c on 60c brown on cream

10c on 1fr brown

SPANISH GUINEA.—Several of our contemporaries list a series of revenue stamps as having been overprinted for postal use. As near as we can make out the stamps, which are of large size, are of the series of 1903 and have received a double surcharge : first, a female figure emblematic of the Goddess of Arts and Commerce surrounded with the inscription "*Posesiones Españolas de Africa Occidental*" and the Spanish arms and, secondly, "HABILITADO—PARA—CORREOS 10 CEN DE PESETA" in four lines of large type.

Adhesive stamps.

Imperforate

10c on 25c black, red surcharge

10c " 50c orange, blue "

10c " 1p 25c rose, black "

10c " 2p claret " "

10c " 2p 50c brown, blue "

10c " 5p olive, red "

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*John.*—*The Philatelic Record* notes the appearance of a new provisional. It is the \$2.00 stamp surcharged "One Dollar" in rather large, Roman type with a bar below it.

Adhesive stamp.

Watermarked a Flower.

Perforated 14.

Black surcharge.

\$1 on \$2 lilac and carmine

Changes in Catalogue Prices.

Cat. No.	New.	Used.	Cat. No.	New.	Used.
ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.			FRANOE (Dedeagh).		
68 1888-89	10	3	912* 1902-03	—	—
68a "	2	2	913* "	—	—
FRANCE (Cavalle).			914* "	—	—
862* 1902-03	—	—	919* "	—	—
863* "	—	—	GERMANY.		
864* "	—	—	76 1902	90	50

*This stamp was never issued.

GUATEMALA.				77*	1903	—
32	1886	1.00		78†	"	—
35	"	20	10	79†	"	—
36	"	55	25	80*	"	—
37	"	15	15	81*	"	—
38	"	20	25	82*	"	—
39	"	40	40	83*	"	—
40	"	50	40			
41	"	55	65			
LIBERIA.				45*	1902-03	—
63*	1902	—		49*	"	—
67a*	"	—				
VENEZUELA.				102	1894	5.00

Birmingham Philatelic Society.

Jan. 7th.—Messrs J. T. Chamberlain, E. Antoniades, A. G. Kelson, Dr. D. G. Thomson, Capt J. R. P. Clarke, and Major J. A. Dealy, were unanimously elected members.

Votes of thanks were accorded the following for contributions to the permanent collection—Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson—a superb selection of 300 Indian and surcharged on Indian for the Native States, all mint and including many rarities and high values, also to Messrs C. G. Fryer, Wilcox Smith, H. Wade, T. S. Parkinson. Messrs. W. Morley and J. Edwards were thanked for donations to the Library.

Mr. P. T. Deakin showed his collection of the stamps of Turkey and an interesting discussion took place on the early issues which will be shortly resumed when certain variations of overprint will be further investigated.

Feb 4th.—Paper.—*Holland and Colonies* by Messrs. H. Grindall and J. A. Margoschis. Rev. F. W. S le Lievre, Messrs C. Harmens, P. D. M de Silva, C L Larssen were unanimously elected members

Messrs. T. Chamberlain and W. Brown were thanked for donation to the Collection and Library respectively.

Messrs. Grindall and Margoschis then gave their paper illustrated from their own collections and by those of others members present. The peculiarities of the original die, arrangement of plates and panes, printing and perforation of postage and unpaids all claimed attention and we hope to publish particulars of same when several conflicting statements of authorities have been cleared up

We have the following duplicate books for sale for the benefit of the Permanent Collection. All are in good order. Offers requested in cash or stamps:

Ewen's Weekly S. N., vols. 6, 7, 8. 0, *Stamp Collectors Fortnightly*, vols. 3, 7, 8, *P. J. of G. B.*, vol. 12, *Gibbons' Monthly Journal*, vols. 10, 11, 12, 13, *Stamp News*, vols. 7, 8, *Stamp Collector*, vols. 4, 5, 6, *Phil. Chron. and Ad.*, vols. 2, 8, *Phil. Ref.*, vol. 2 (1902), *Stamp Auction Reporter*, complete 14 numbers, *Gibbons' Catalogue* 10th Edition, Part I (11th to 15th), Part II (11th to 14th), Part III (12th), *Ewen's Catal.* (4th to 6th editions), *Morley's Cats.* (1895, 6, 7), *Hilkes' Cat.* (1894).

Any stamps will be accepted that will fill blanks in the collection, but they must be in good condition.

*This stamp was never issued.

†These stamps are duplicates of Nos. 72 and 73.